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Feb. 1839

Bradford

to

Patterson

U.S. Br. Mint, New Orleans,
February 1st 1839.

Sir,

Your letters of 30th ulto. and 5th inst. reached me on the 16th and 17th inst. I had heretofore avoided the unpleasant office of informing of the course I had deemed it my duty to pursue in relation to Mr. Spofford. My own feelings of propriety prevented me from disclosing that your selection had proved so unfortunate, nor could I believe that my duty required me to trouble you on the subject. To the manner of Mr. Spofford I made no objection; had he not manifested insufferable insubordination, I should have been happy to have retained him in his situation as long as he performed its duties, but when he disregarded every instruction, verbal and written which I addressed to him and set my authority utterly at defiance, he left me no alternative. A sense of public duty alone, without any regard whatever to my own feelings, compelled me to dismiss him. I confess I was deeply disappointed and pained at the conduct of this individual as I had hoped from your recommendation to have found him in all respects qualified for the business of the institution.

An equally painful duty is imposed on me by your letter of the 5th inst. It seems that Mr. Maxwell has informed you by his letter of the 24th ulto. to you,

that "he has never been able to have a satisfactory settlement — that the warrants between the Treasurer and himself have been made up from his statements alone — and that not an account as yet has been opened." How far these statements are true will appear from a communication from the Treasurer in answer to my written request, a copy of which is herein enclosed. To this I will only add that the delay in making up the annual account between the Treasurer, the Mint & Assistant and Coiner, was occasioned solely by the latter Officers, who after their account had been rendered, adjusted, compared and approved, were so tardy in closing them, by signing them, that I was on the point of sending them in without their signatures and reporting their delinquency.

You enquire, "Is your Treasurer, an Officer competent to the important trust, which he holds?" I have to inform you that his accounts to the 30th. June last were adjusted at the Treasury Department as appears by the enclosed copy of a letter to him from the Comptroller dated December 27th, 1838. And the enclosed copy of the communication from the Treasurer to me, to the accuracy of which I feel bound from my intimate knowledge of the facts to add my most unqualified assurance, will afford you authentic information, and furnishes the fullest answer to your enquiry. For my own part, I can per-

fectly satisfied that there is no derangement in the Treasurer's Office and no need of any reform. At this time he has but one Clerk, Mr. Dimitry, a gentleman fully competent, very attentive and industrious, and as soon as I deem the business of the institution requires it, I shall appoint another. The only Clerks appointed by me of my own selection, Mr. Dimitry, Mr. Durel and Mr. Lasere are as highly competent as any individuals to be found in the Union. The two last resigned in consequence of the inadequacy of the Salary. Mr. Lasere at present fills a lucrative and honorable employment in the Legislature of the State.

Permit me, Sir, in the same spirit of frankness and confidence which has induced me to answer every enquiry of yours' to request, that, in future, copies of all letters addressed to you containing charges against any officer of this Institution be immediately forwarded to me, so that, in no instance, the public interest or the rights of individuals may be violated. I am truly sorry, that an occasion should have taken place to render this request necessary, but your letter of the 5th inst. has satisfied me of its propriety and justice.

Very respectfully,
Your humble servt.

(signed) David Bradford,
Superintendent.

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director Mint
Philad.